

Deliverable 1.4

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Abbreviations

CA	Consortium Agreement
CE	Circular Economy
DoA	Description of Action
EAB	External Advisory Board
EB	Executive Board
EC	European Commission
GA	Grant Agreement
GenA	General Assembly
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
PC	Project Coordinator
QH	Quadruple Helix
QHCS	Quadruple Helix Collaborations
POIM	Program for Big Infrastructure development (2021-2027)
PPP	Public Private Partnership
R&I	Research and Innovation
UWWTP	Urban Waste Water Treatment Plant
WP	Work package
WPL	Work package Leader

Executive Summary

This public deliverable (D1.4) presents WaterWise Hub progress during M1–M9 (January–September 2025). The project set out to catalyse research and innovation, business uptake, and skills for Water in the Circular Economy across Greece, Romania, the Western Balkans and selected Eastern Partnership countries. In the first nine months, the consortium has moved from mobilisation to steady execution, establishing governance, quality-assurance routines, and the evidence base that now steers implementation across work packages.

Management and quality. Core management instruments are in place and operational: the Quality Assurance & Risk Management framework (with active internal review and a live risk register), the Data Management Plan (FAIR-by-design workflows and repository choices), and the IPR Strategy (background/results registers, access-rights logic), Coordination mechanisms monthly Executive Board, regular WP meetings and actions logs are fully adopted.

Technical progress. WP2 has made significant preparations towards a successful launch of the Quadruple Helix Thinktank, initiated policy mapping in partners countries as well as in European Union and European Associated Horizon Europe Widening countries, started technology scouting using a need-driven approach linked to baseline infrastructure readiness. These streams feed the joint cross-border R&I Strategy (T2.4), whose support and evidence-ingestion process are defined. WP3 (Action & Investment Plan) begins in M12; pre-start templates, data models and interfaces with WP2 are prepared. WP4 has drafted the funding to third parties (open calls) workflow and aligned eligibility, selection and monitoring with WP5's Innovation Accelerator and Residency, ensuring a seamless pathway from selection to mentoring and testing. WP6 initiated clustering and knowledge-transfer channels (Excellence Hubs Community, ICT4WATER, Water Europe, Watershare) and set up a committee from academic partners to map training assets and gaps. WP8 is driving visibility and exploitation routes through the live website, social channels, multilingual press, and a roadmap for the FundFinder and podcast.

Results and risks. Milestones achieved include project launch and stakeholder mapping. No critical risks have materialised; mitigations are tracked for external disruptions, engagement shortfalls and IPR clarity. Early KPIs (governance cadence, deliverables adopted, channels launched) indicate on-track delivery.

Financial note. This document reports technical progress only. Detailed financial statements for M1–M9 will be submitted with the RP1 Periodic Report by M15, in line with Horizon Europe reporting modalities.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

The WaterWise Hub is an EU-funded Excellence Hub that aims to accelerate innovation and sustainability across the water sector, particularly in Greece, Romania, the Western Balkans, and Eastern Partnership: Moldova and Ukraine. The project will ultimately create a vibrant and cross-border ecosystem for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in water and the circular economy. It will provide the spark to enable R&I creation and uptake, business development and knowledge transfer using a quadruple helix approach which considers academia, industry, government and civil society. The consortium brings together research organisations, public authorities, water utilities, industry, and civil society from across South-East Europe and the wider EU in a quadruple helix model of innovation. Its objective is to co-develop scalable solutions for resilient, water-smart regions while strengthening innovation capacity and skills.

Deliverable D1.4 provides a consolidated, evidence-based account of progress up to M9 (September 2025) against the Description of Action (DoA), with a focus on (i) implementation status of Work Packages, tasks, and milestones; (ii) deviations and corrective actions; (iii) horizontal obligations (ethics, data, open science, communication/visibility); and (iv) early results, use-cases, and risks. The document is prepared under the Coordinator's responsibility and with inputs from all beneficiaries and associated partners in line with the project's governance and information obligations.

This deliverable is part of this process, essentially expanding the mandatory periodic reporting towards the EC, providing additional checkpoints of progress. This is the first of three consecutive deliverables, placed along the project's implementation timeline, aiming to capture the progress of the project so far, while simultaneously identifying any issues, allowing for early mitigation measures.

This document reports exclusively on technical progress. Financial reporting is not included, as the consortium's internal cost-tracking and verification cycle is ongoing and scheduled to cover period M1-M9 and submitted to Coordinator by M10; the consolidated financials will be submitted formally under Reporting Period 1 (RP1) by M15.

Ultimately, as a public deliverable, it will be disseminated internally and externally to the project, providing an update to all interested stakeholders on the work done and results achieved so far in the progression of the project.

2 Detailed progress per Work Package

2.1 WP1 - Coordination and Project Management (NTUA, M1-M48)

WP1 is the managerial work package that sets the foundations of project implementation and monitors its smooth progression, predicting and addressing any issues along.

Work carried out		
Through WP1 the project has launched successfully (MS1 - Kick-off meeting, M1) and the necessary coordinating documents of D1.1 - Quality Assurance and Risk management Plan and D1.2 - Data Management Plan (D1.1, M2 and D1.2, M3) have been created and disseminated to the partners, ensuring a harmonization in the conduct of the project right from the beginning. Continuing to set the foundations for the upcoming activities of the WaterWise Hub, the IPR Strategy has been created (D1.3, M6) and an initial mapping of relevant stakeholders has been completed (MS3 - Stakeholder mapping completed, M6)		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 1.1: Project Coordination. (M1-M48) (NTUA; All Partners).	Work in progress	NTUA has undertaken all the necessary steps to set up and initiate the consortium and the project as a whole. This includes: - Contractual management and consortium agreement setup (admin, financial, legal, ethics). - Establishing a robust and efficient top-down and multilateral management structure to allow for cross-WP synergies and collaborations - Supervising the fulfilment of the planned work, deadlines and milestones supported by complementary reporting where necessary. - Supervising delivery against work/milestones and providing common templates (presentations/deliverables).
Task 1.2: Project Management. (M1-M48) (NTUA; All Partners)	Work in progress	NTUA has established early on meetings for each corresponding aspect of the implementation of the project. Agendas, minutes, and action logs are maintained to ensure follow-up and accountability. Executive board meetings including all Work Package leaders, are held monthly, allowing for a horizontal coordination of the project.

		Internal WP meetings are organised per WP according to needs ensuring timely implementation
Task 1.3 Stakeholder Mapping (M1-M48) (NTUA; All Partners)	Work in progress	An extensive stakeholder mapping activity has been held, screening for potential stakeholders from all partner countries and then organising them in a spreadsheet, ranking and categorising them by factors such as thematic domain, importance, authority etc. providing a contact-ready pool of stakeholders. Linkages achieved: WP2 builds on the T1.3 output. The mapping remains a living resource throughout M1–M48 to engage actors across participating countries, including marginalised/under-represented groups
Task 1.4: Risk Management and Quality Assurance (M1-M48) (NTUA; All Partners).	Work in progress	- The consortium approved and is applying the Quality Assurance & Risk Management framework defined in D1.1, which sets methods for deliverable quality control, internal reviews, and risk handling. D1.1 (due M2) also formalised the composition/roles of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) and the External Advisory Board (EAB). - Governance for QA is operational: the QAC has been constituted and embedded in key processes (e.g., pre-submission checks for deliverables). - Quality routines are in place: common templates, checklists, and a two-step internal review prior to submission
Task 1.5: Data Management, Open Science, and IP Management (M1-M48) (NTUA; All Partners).	Work in progress	The initial version of the IPR Strategy (D1.3, lead: MANTIS) clarifies ownership of results, dissemination notice/objection procedures, and access-rights logic between background and results, referencing the GA and the CA registers of identified background and their restrictions. This ensures alignment with forthcoming WP4 open calls and WP5 Innovation Accelerator support. Overall, T1.5 is on track: governance for data and IP is in place, partners are applying FAIR/open access obligations, and result/Background boundaries are documented to enable reuse while protecting legitimate interests and future exploitation. Next steps (M10–M15) focus on repository onboarding for first datasets, periodic DMP updates, and IP screening ahead of pilot tool releases
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D1.1 Quality Assurance and Risk management Plan (M2)	Submitted	A detailed QA & RM Plan has been formulated and disseminated to the project partners, explaining the internal procedures of the project, the QA protocol to be followed and the use of the risk registry along with the risk amelioration protocol
D1.2 Data Management Plan (DMP) (M3)	Submitted	The DMP has been formulated, explaining for the project partners as well external stakeholders how and where data utilised through the project will be stored.

D1.3 IPR Strategy (M6)	Submitted	A detailed IPR strategy has been formulated to ensure the proper handling of any data related to sensitive intellectual property matters occurring through the implementation of the project activities (e.g. Open Calls, Innovation Accelerator etc.)
D1.4 Financial and technical reports #1 (M9)	Submitted	This document reports technical progress to M9. Financial reporting is not included, as the consortium's internal cost-tracking and verification cycle is ongoing and scheduled to cover period M1-M9 and submitted to Coordinator by M10; the consolidated financials will be submitted formally under Reporting Period 1 (RP1) by M15.
D1.5 Financial and technical reports #2 (M24)	Not started	
D1.6 Financial and technical reports #3 (M39)	Not started	
D1.7 Final project report (M48)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other issues to report		

2.2 WP2 - Development of an R&I Strategy on Water in the CE (BDG, M1-18)

Work carried out		
The objective of WP2 is to develop a cross-border joint R&I strategy for water innovation, with an emphasis on circular and distributed water solutions for SE Europe, the Balkans and the EAP partnership countries, strengthening the synergies between the Quadruple Helix stakeholders.		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 2.1: Quadruple Helix Thinktank. <i>(M3-M18) (BDG; NTUA GRFU, SEV, EDEYA, SCICO, MANTIS, UTCB, SGGDDD, FCB, TUM, NUWEE, UB-FCE, BGG, IECE, UNEXE, KWR).</i>	Work in progress	- We operationalised a practical, country-by-country policy and stakeholder assessment across partnership. Building on T1.3 stakeholder mapping (with Greece and Romania leading due to broader QH representation), all partner countries contributed to an initial evidence base by M8 and potential partners. - A structured questionnaire identified barriers to a circular water economy, predefined under five main categories: technological, economic, social, legislative, and cooperative (each with specific sub-items for consistent coding). Country implementation followed a flexible but harmonised approach: Romania: stakeholder inputs gathered via a dedicated online session, enabling deeper discussion of gaps and priorities before consolidating responses. Greece: NTUA completed the template and validated it with national ecosystem partners. Other countries: the responsible national partner completed the questionnaire. - Preliminary findings; Common needs include stronger technical expertise and R&D capacity, clearer and more enabling regulatory frameworks, and better PPPs and funding access. - Next steps: refine country snapshots/priorities, close metadata gaps, and integrate findings with T2.2, T2.3 and T2.4. Based on the initial feedback a Terms of Reference document (ToR) has been prepared and discussed internally on how to operationalize the Think Tank during the project implementation, potential work groups and its further integration with other project work packages. - Early results reported in MS4
Task 2.2: Mapping the Policy Landscape. <i>(M1-M18) (KWR; NTUA, SEV, GRFU, ECOIND, SGG-DDD, BDG, UNEXE, UCRAN).</i>	Work in progress	A structured template to ensure comparable entries across countries and governance levels has been developed and circulated across partners. For each item, partners record: a set of data including policy/act name, issuing organisation (EU, international, national), geographical scope, instrument type

		(legislation, directive, standard, recommendation), policy domain (water, green, digital, climate adaptation), status and effect date, and a short description. Each entry is tagged as enabling or hindering circular and distributed water innovations. Implementation challenges will be coded using standard keywords (e.g. technological, social, financial, institutional, legal framework, stakeholder resistance, transboundary, governance, infrastructure, technical, compliance, decentralisation). This common schema will support traceability, harmonised coding, and later synthesis into cross-country comparisons and gap/opportunity analysis. • Initial questionnaire responses have been screened for completeness, consistency, and clarity. We flagged missing information and ambiguous challenge tags and prepared follow-up questions. Short bilateral calls with partners are scheduled to validate interpretations, align terminology, and capture national nuances. The goal is to convert raw entries into high-quality, referenced records suitable for aggregation and analysis. • A parallel desk study is expanding and validating the mapping exercise to Widening countries. Sources include EU, international and national policy documents, regulatory assessments, technical reports, grey literature, and peer-reviewed articles. Findings will be cross-checked against partner submissions to fill gaps, confirm challenge typologies, and surface emerging or soon-to-enter-into-force instruments. • Early results reported in MS4
Task 2.3 Scouting for Technology Innovations. <i>(M1-M18) (UNEXE; NTUA, MANTIS, ECOIND, BDG, KWR, UCRAN).</i>	Work in progress	• A structured (8 questions) questionnaire was circulated to all WP2 partners. Data collection is organised across three decision layers to guide later prioritisation: ○ Service and treatment coverage (Q1–Q3) to identify structural gaps. ○ Water demand and industrial practices (Q4–Q6) to locate high-impact sectors and typical treatment constraints. ○ Current circular practices and perceived opportunity spaces (Q7–Q8) to capture what already works and where scale-up is plausible. • In parallel, a scan of European sources with curated technology lists has initiated. • Early results reported in MS4
Task 2.4: R&I Strategy Development.	Work in progress	• The current phase of development focuses on the mapping of domains important

(M6-M18) (NTUA; All Partners)		for an R&I strategy and their analysis on actionable, researchable relevant material. This task has initiated with the drafting of the methodological approach on WaterWise Hub vision and priority themes; • Some of the foundations of the R&I strategy are complementary with other work done for the needs of the WP2 (T2.2 and T2.3). • Initially research/desk study has been performed on the elements and components of a competent R&I Strategy and then these parts further analysed to their constituents and pre-requisites.
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D2.1 Navigating the Policy Landscape (M12)	Work in progress	• The deliverable will present a method and coding scheme, country snapshots, a consolidated catalogue of policies with enable/hinder signals, a challenge typology analysis, and priority recommendations that link directly to T2.1 insights and T2.3 technology pathways. Final draft version is planned to be discussed and endorsed by WaterWise Hub Think Tank.
D2.2 WaterWise R&I Strategy (M18)	Work in progress	• Methodology is currently drafted drawing material from academic sources and examples of SRIAs (Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas) • Findings from T2.2 and T2.3 will act as input to the R&I strategy and along with individual findings on key points (cross border collaboration, risk management and sustainability planning etc.) will formulate the final strategy.
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other issues to report		

2.3 WP3 – Supporting the Implementation of the R&I Strategy (GRFU, M12-M48)

Work carried out		
Work under WP3 has started ahead of its formal launch (M12), laying the groundwork for the Task 3.2 - Funding Opportunities Exploration. A preliminary funding database template has been drafted in collaboration with the WP3 partners and disseminated to the consortium for feedback. The funding database template is under development, with ongoing refinements aimed at defining a structure suitable for the diverse funding practices across participating countries. These initial efforts establish a solid foundation for the subsequent formulation of the Action and Investment Plan Formulation (Task 3.1), the development of the WaterWise FundFinder Portal (ER3), and the production of the annual Funding Landscape Reports (D3.2).		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 3.1: Action and Investment Plan Formulation (M12-M24) (UNEXE; GRFU, SEV, MANTIS, SGGDDD, BDG, NTUA, EDEYA, ECOIND, ROTSA, BGG, NUWEE, IECE, KWR).	Not started	
Task 3.2: Funding Opportunities Exploration (M12-M48) (MANTIS; GRFU, SEV, SGG-DDD, BDG, SCICO, FCB).	In preparation	- GRFU, together with MANTIS, SCICO, and NTUA, initiated the development of a funding database template, which was circulated for consortium feedback and is currently under refinement. - In the next period we plan to finalize the database template and begin populating it with relevant funding opportunities to support the Action and Investment Plan (Task 3.1) and the WaterWise FundFinder Portal (ER3).
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D3.1 Action and Investment Plan (M24)	Not started	
D3.2 Annual Funding Landscape Report #1 (M24)	Not started	
D3.3 Annual Funding Landscape Report #2 (M36)	Not started	
D3.4 Annual Funding Landscape Report #3 (M48)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		

Other
No other issues to report

2.4 WP4 – Facilitation of Academia-Business Collaboration and Pilot Project (NTUA, M19-M48)

Work carried out		
WP4 formally starts in M19, so the first nine months focused on launch readiness. The team agreed a phased timetable for T4.3, T4.4 and drafted the end-to-end workflow that links WP4 selections with WP5 support.		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 4.1: Joint pilot research project #1: Developing a Strategic & Tactical Decisions Toolbox for Circular / Decentralised Water Solutions (M19-M48) (KWR; UNEXE, NTUA, ECOIND, UB-FCE, EDEYA).	Not started	
Task 4.2: Joint pilot research project #2: Developing an Operational Decisions Toolbox for Circular / Decentralised Water Solutions (M19-M48) (UNEXE; KWR, NTUA, TETHYS, BDG, MANTIS, EDEYA, UB-FCE, NUWEE).	Not started	
Task 4.3: Pilot Project Open Calls (M19-M48) (GRFU; MANTIS, BDG, SGG-DDD, UNEXE, KWR, FCB, IECE).	In preparation	As pre-start setup for T4.3 - Drafted a joint WP4, WP5 workflow: selection, due diligence, QAC check, grant signature, WP5 onboarding, technical mentoring, monitoring & results capture. - Planned interactions with Open Calls: evaluation criteria align with T2.3 priorities; monitoring templates align with WP5 service menus (testing, prototyping, field trials).
Task 4.4: Conceptual design and pre-planning for pilots and demonstrators (M19-M48) (BDG; NTUA, MANTIS, GRFU, SEV, ECOIND, ROTSA, UNEXE, KWR, SCICO, FCB, IECE).	Not started	
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D4.1 Strategic & Tactical Decision Toolbox (M36)	Not started	
D4.2 Operational Decisions Toolbox (M36)	Not started	

D4.3 Open Call Projects Handbook (M20)	Not started	
D4.4 Funded Projects Report (M42)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other issues to report		

2.5 WP5 - Innovation Acceleration and Entrepreneurship Fostering for Water Solutions (MANTIS, M25-M48)

Work carried out		
During this period we completed two preparatory strands: first, a high-level scoping of the WaterWise Tech Challenge, building on the GreenTech Challenge model, to define objectives, target participant groups (students, early-career researchers, startups), thematic tracks, governance and partner roles, a preliminary timeline, and a mentoring/bootcamp structure that enables a plug-and-play launch at M25; second, an examination of the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) framework to ensure Horizon Europe compliance, covering eligibility criteria and evaluation rubric, required documentation and audit trail (applications, scoring sheets, award decisions), and payment traceability and controls.		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 5.1: WaterWise Tech Challenges (M25-M48) (MANTIS; NTUA, EDEYA, GRFU, ECOIND, SGGDDD, ROTSA, BDG, SCICO, FCB).	In preparation	Progress of activities: - High-level scoping of the WaterWise Tech Challenge format leveraging the GreenTech Challenge model. - Examination of Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) framework (eligibility, evaluation criteria, documentation, payment traceability). Next steps planned - Concept note & governance for WaterWise Tech Challenge - Mentoring & bootcamps plan
Task 5.2: Innovation Acceleration (M25-M48) (UCRAN; NTUA, MANTIS, ECOIND, ROTSA, BDG, UNEXE, KWR).	Not started	
Task 5.3: Residency Program (M25-M48) (NTUA; ECOIND, BDG, UTCB, UB-FCE, NUWEE, IECE, UNEXE, UCRAN).	Not started	
Task 5.4: The WaterWise Knowledge Hub (M25-M48) (NTUA; TETHYS).	Not started	
Title	Status	Progress
D5.1 WaterWise tech challenge (M48)	Not started	
D5.2 WaterWise innovation Accelerator (M36)	Not started	
D5.3 WaterWise Knowledge Hub (M36)	Not started	

Risks
Foreseen Risks
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend
Unforeseen Risks
Not applicable
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)
Not applicable
Other
No other issues to report

2.6 WP6 - Enhancement of Collaboration and Knowledge Transfer (UNEXE, M1-M48)

Work carried out		
Under Task 6.1 we activated in-region collaboration, joined the Excellence Hubs Community. Task 6.2 prioritised high-value clusters; ICT4WATER, Water Europe, Watershare and proximate CSAs (CIRSEAU, BOOST-IN), plus WATERLINE for post-project assets; onboarding plans and partner roles are set to ensure steady participation and two-way knowledge flows. Task 6.3 initiated its plans to assemble the knowledge-transfer toolkit (webinars, panels, joint outputs), defined a project-wide KPI for joint activities, and linked outputs to WP7 learning and WP8 dissemination so each engagement yields reusable materials for capacity building. Collectively, these steps create the external interfaces, event pipeline and governance needed to amplify WaterWise impact and to channel external insights back into strategy, technology scouting and investment planning.		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 6.1: Collaboration and Networking within the Hub's geographical focus <i>(M1-M48) (UNEXE; NTUA, GRFU, SEV, SCICO, EDEYA, UTCB, ECOIND, SGG-DDD, FCB, BDG, ROTSA, TUM, BGG, IECE, NUWEE, UB-FCE, KWR, UCRAN).</i>	Work in progress	- Early actions included contributing to the new Excellence Hubs Community kick-off on 17 June 2025 and capturing national/regional initiatives that can be mobilised for joint activities. A WP6 questionnaire will be circulated at the end of Year 1 and reviewed at the January 2026 GA to complete the mapping and schedule 2026 exchanges. - Activities are coordinated with WP8 for visibility and with WP2 stakeholder mapping to maximise participation.
Task 6.2: Wider Collaborations and Networking <i>(M1-M48) (UNEXE; NTUA, SCICO, UTCB, BDG, TUM, BGG, NUWEE, IECE, UB-FCE, KWR, UCRAN).</i>	Work in progress	- External liaison is operational and expanding. Priority clusters and platforms have been selected; Excellence Hubs Community, ICT4WATER, Water Europe (incl. WoLLs and the Water Market Place), Watershare and topic-proximate CSAs (CIRSEAU, BOOST-IN) plus WATERLINE for post-project assets. - The ICT4WATER application (with declared contributions to Action Groups) is planned to secure participation in 2025–26 activities; partners already occupy leadership roles in AGs, easing onboarding. - These channels provide two-way flows: WaterWise disseminates methods and results while absorbing digital water, policy and business-model insights from EU communities; feeding WP7 capacity building and WP2/3 strategy work.
Task 6.3: Upskilling Courses Design and Delivery <i>(M7-M48) (SCICO; NTUA, SEV, UTCB, TUM, ECOIND INCD, NUWEE, UB-FCE, UNEXE, KWR, UCRAN).</i>	Work in progress	- An Academic Committee will be established with representatives from all consortium academic partners to steer knowledge-transfer activities and align them with national and regional needs. - A structured questionnaire has been designed to map existing courses, laboratory/services offerings, and identifiable gaps in curricula and continuing

		education relevant to water in the circular economy. Responses will form a baseline catalogue of assets and needs across partner institutions and countries. • The Academic Committee will convene on a regular basis to validate and analyse survey results, prioritise skill gaps, and define learner profiles (students, professionals, public authorities). • Based on these priorities, a cross-institutional working group will be set up to design modular training resources (syllabi, case-based materials, micro-credentials), with clear hand-offs to WP7 for capacity-building pathways and to WP8 for dissemination. This ensures that knowledge-transfer outputs are targeted, reusable, and ready for piloting in 2026.
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D6.1 WaterWise clustering plan (M6)	Submitted	Deliverable 6.1 sets the project's clustering strategy: how WaterWise will liaise with external organisations, networks and projects to maximise impact during 2025–2028 and beyond. The plan prioritises engagement with: the Excellence Hubs Community (sister projects), the ICT4WATER cluster, Water Europe (incl. the Water Market Place), Watershare, and topic-relevant CSAs (e.g., CIRSEAU, BOOST-IN), plus WATERLINE for lessons from a finishing WIDERA project. The deliverable underlines alignment with WP2 stakeholder activities and WP8 visibility so that clustering will fuel knowledge transfer, policy alignment and capacity building across widening regions.
D6.2 Training courses materials (M32)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other issues to report		

2.7 WP7 - Mentoring for Developing Innovation Ecosystems (KWR, M25-M48)

Work carried out		
WP work not started yet		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 7.1: Mentoring Program Implementation (M25-M48) (KWR; All Partners)	Not started	
Task 7.2: Utilisation of Hub's Instruments for Mentorship (M25-M48) (KWR; All Partners)	Not started	
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D7.1 Mentoring Program Package (M36)	Not started	
D7.2 Mentoring Impact Report (M48)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other issues to report		

2.8 WP8 - Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation (SciCo, M1-M48)

Work carried out		
A comprehensive Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication (DEC) Strategy has been established, guiding the project's visibility, stakeholder engagement, and exploitation routes. This strategy is supported by a clear governance structure, defined roles, and KPIs, with planned revisions at M24 and M48 to adapt based on performance. Implementation is well underway through the launch of the official website (www.waterwisehub.eu), three social media channels, a newsletter, and a press release issued in six languages. These efforts, complemented by promotional materials, have successfully reached a wide range of stakeholders. Future actions include enhancing the website with a FundFinder portal, launching the WaterWise Podcast, and releasing new infographics. To streamline event planning, a recurring coordination meeting with consortium partners is being set up to co-design and schedule upcoming workshops and webinars. This ensures that all future activities remain aligned with the project's core research and innovation priorities, beginning with the finalization of the Q4–Q2 event calendar.		
Tasks		
Title	Status	Progress
Task 8.1: C&D Strategy <i>(M1-M48) (SCICO; All Partners)</i>	Work in progress	- A comprehensive Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Strategy with an accompanying activity plan. The plan now guides ongoing visibility actions, stakeholder engagement, and routes to exploitation, ensuring alignment with WP leads and the project's R&I priorities. Governance, roles, KPIs, and reporting routines are in place, and implementation has started across channels. - Planned revisions are scheduled for M24 and M48 to incorporate interim results and adjust tactics based on performance evidence.
Task 8.2: Social media <i>(M1-M48) (SCICO)</i>	Work in progress	- The project launched three social media channels (LinkedIn, Instagram, Youtube), as well as the official website (www.waterwisehub.eu), a newsletter (M7) and a press release in six languages (M7) to project stakeholders. - Promotional materials (tote bags, environmentally-friendly notebook with pen) were produced too. These communication outlets have already allowed the programme to reach out to a plethora of project stakeholders representing all strands of the Quadruple Helix. - Some key figures: - Social media following: 376 - Total Number of Posts: 67 - Newsletter Subscribers: 280 - Press Release Recipients: 460 - Website Visitors: 232

		Upcoming actions include new built-in features on website (including FundFinder portal, Innovation Accelerator page), launch of the WaterWise Podcast, release of two infographics, release of the second newsletter and press release.
Task 8.3: Workshops, Conferences, and Webinars (M8-M48) (SCICO; All Partners)	Work in progress	A recurring coordination meeting is set up with consortium partners to co-design and plan the project's workshops, webinars. This forum will align topics with WP priorities, target audiences, and coordinate speakers, formats, and timelines.
Task 8.4: Ambassador Network (M20-M48) (UNEXE; All Partners)	Not started	
Task 8.5: Post Project Exploitation and Bridge-to-Market (M24-M48) (SCICO; MANTIS, ROTSA, BDG)	Not started	
Deliverables		
Title	Status	Progress
D8.1 Plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities (M6)	Submitted	The DEC strategy and activities plan is published and serves as a roadmap for communication and dissemination efforts and underpins the effective exploitation of project outcomes.
D8.2 WaterWise website (M4)	Submitted	The Waterwise Hub website has been successfully launched as a central platform for communication, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement. It provides information about the project's objectives, activities, and progress, while also serving as a repository for key outputs and resources. The website is designed to enhance visibility, support collaboration across the Quadruple Helix, and facilitate the wider uptake of project results.
D8.3 C&D activities #1 (M24)	Not started	
D8.4 C&D activities #2 (M48)	Not started	
Risks		
Foreseen Risks		
Tracked via the project risk register; none materialised in M1–M9 period. See Section 3 (R1–R6) for status, owners, mitigations, and trend		
Unforeseen Risks		
Not applicable		
Deviations from DoA in Tasks / Objectives (if applicable)		
Not applicable		
Other		
No other topics to report		

2.9 Milestones

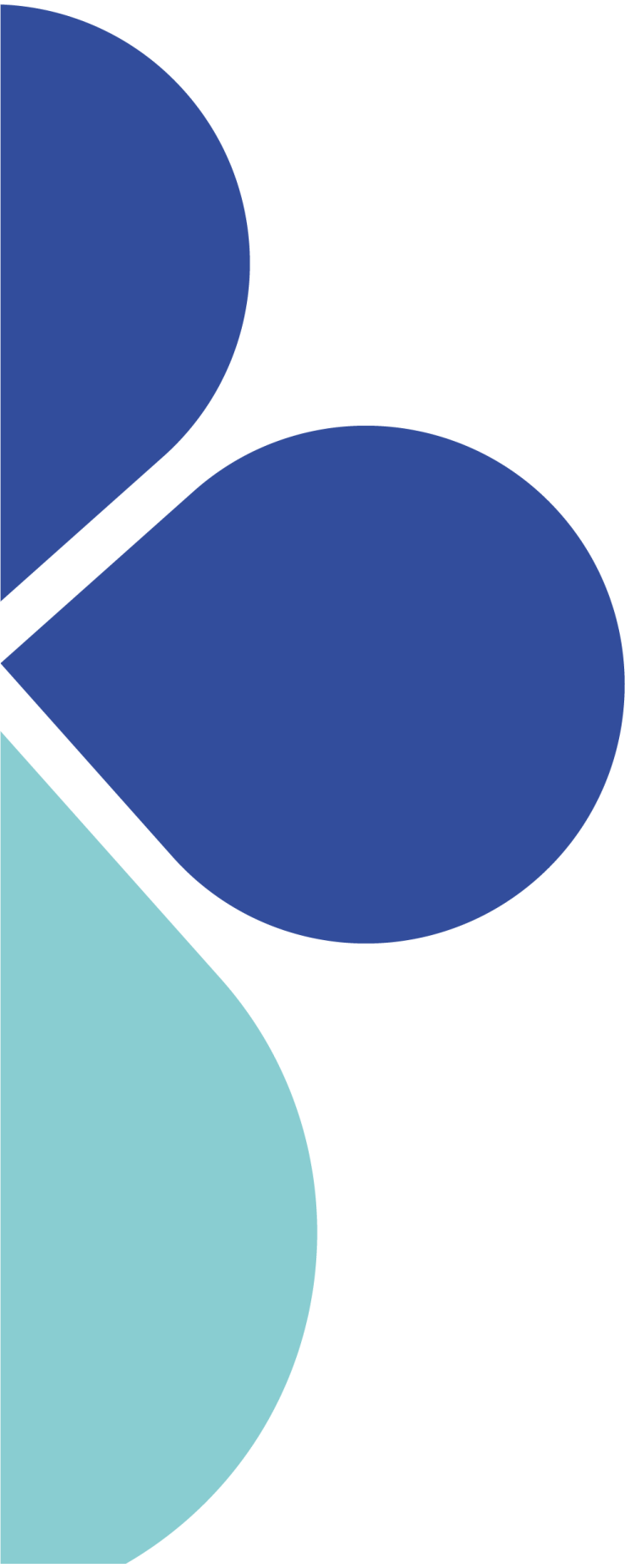
#	Name	WP#	Lead Beneficiary	Means of Verification (GA Annex 1)	Due Date	Delivery Date (actual)	Achieved
MS1	Kick-off meeting	WP 1	1 - NTUA	Kick-off meeting agenda	M1	31/01/2025	Yes
MS2	Website and social media pages launched	WP 8	5 - SciCo	Website and accounts online	M4	30/04/2025	Yes
MS3	Stakeholder mapping completed	WP 1	1 - NTUA	Internal report available	M6	30/06/2025	Yes
MS4	R&I gaps and needs on the water-CE sector identified	WP 2	13 - BDG	Report with identified needs (to be used for D2.1)	M8	30/08/2025	Yes

3 Risks

3.1 Risks list

During M1–M9, six critical risks defined in the GA (R1–R6) were monitored; none materialised.

Risks State of Play					
#	Name / Short Description	Owner	Did you apply risk mitigation measures?	Did your risk materialise?	Comments
[No]	[name]		[YES]/[NO]	[YES]/[NO]	
R1	Unforeseen external factors (e.g., socioeconomic, political, health, technological, etc.) hinder implementation.	WP1-WP8	Yes	No	No materialisation; contingency planning in place.
R2	Reaching consensus between Hub partners on R&I priorities and actions is challenged by different national and sector viewpoints held by quadruple helix partners.	WP2, WP3	Yes	No	No materialisation; participation good
R3	Disputes over the ownership of IPR (relevant to joint projects, Open Calls, Innovation Accelerator)	WP4, WP5	Yes	No	D1.3 adopted; no conflicts raised.
R4	Mismatch between new courses and partner universities curriculum	WP6	Yes	No	Academic Committee set up; mapping in progress.
R5	Limited response of stakeholders to WaterWise engagement activities – incl. for example limited interest for the Open Call or limited participation of local innovators to Mentoring Activities	WP4, WP5, WP7	Yes	No	No materialisation;
R6	Disruption of planned activities by NUWEE due to escalation of armed conflict in Ukraine	WP1-WP8	Yes	No	No materialisation;



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